



## State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
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### Testimony in Support of HB 5544 Transportation Committee February 13, 2013

Chairmen Maynard and Guerrera, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and members of the Transportation Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of **House Bill 5544: *An Act Requiring Notice to the Public of Structurally Deficient and Functionally Obsolete Bridges.***

This bill proposes to require the Department of Transportation to place notice to the public on each bridge in the state that has been designated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. Bridges rated as structurally deficient have a major defect in their support structure or deck and require significant maintenance, rehabilitation or replacement. The condition of these bridges should be made known to the public.

In general, most bridges are designed to last around fifty years. The average age of bridges in the United States is 42 years old, but the average age of bridges in Connecticut is over 47 years old. Out of 4,200 bridges in this state, 1,273 were built between 1957 and 1966. The state's bridges are near the end of their lives and are showing their age.

According to the Federal Highway Administration, 1,028 out of 4,186 bridges in Connecticut are structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. This ranks the state 32<sup>nd</sup> nationally in terms of bridge condition. Every day, drivers in Connecticut have a one in eleven chance in driving over a deteriorating bridge. In Fairfield County alone, the average daily traffic on structurally deficient bridges is 1,381,79.

I respectfully ask the committee to give thorough consideration of this proposal as a way to provide notice to the public of the safety of the state's bridges. Thank you.